

Message Text

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16/66

ACTION EUR-25

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R 191834Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 667

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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UNCLAS BELFAST 74

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT DATE PARAGRAPH 3. TO
READ JUNE 20 VICE JUNE 26)

JUNE 19, 1974.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UK (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN N.I.

1. LOYALIST PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN MEETING IN BELFAST FOR PAST TWO DAYS TO DISCUSS STRATEGY FOR FORTHCOMING PERIOD. LOYALIST POLITICAL LEADERS WERE POINTEDLY EXCLUDED FROM THESE TALKS MAJOR ISSUE OF TALKS WAS UDA WEST BELFAST BRIGADE'S PROPOSAL FOR THREE-MONTH CEASEFIRE BY SELVES AND PROVO AND OFFICIAL IRA FOLLOWED BY TALKS IT HAS NOW BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT TALKS WITH REPUBLICAN PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS WERE FIRMLY REJECTED.

2. ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL POLITICAL LEADERS ARE REVIEWING THEIR STAND ON TALKS WITH NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE REES HERETOFORE THEY HAVE REFUSED TO TALK TO HIM IN THE FOUR-MONTH PROROGATION PERIOD UNTIL HE WOULD AGREE TO EARLY ELECTIONS NOW THEY SAY THEY ARE WILLING TO TALK WITH HIM ON ELECTIONS AND EVEN
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FUTURE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND ALTHOUGH

NOT ON CONSTITUTION ITSELF.

3. ASSEMBLY BYE-ELECTION FOR NORTH ANTRIM (CAUSED BY DEATH OF FAULKNER UNIONIST SOON AFTER ELECTION A YEAR AGO) IS GOING ON DESPITE PROROGATION OF ASSEMBLY JUNE 20 POLL VIEWED AS MINI-REFERENDUM ON POWER-SHARING PRO-CONSTITUTION PARTIES STILL NOT UNITED ON ONE CANDIDATE THEIR CANDIDATES FOLLOWING STRATEGY OF ASKING FOR FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES FOR SELVES SECOND AND THIRD PREFERENCES FOR OTHER PRO-CONSTITUTION CANDIDATES AND LAST PREFERENCE (IF AT ALL) FOR LOYALIST I.E. ANTI-CONSTITUTION ACT CANDIDATE.

4. SDLP APPEARS NOT TO HAVE SORTED ITSELF OUT ON PRECISE NATURE OF IRISH DIMENSION IT WILL HENCEFORTH INSIST ON PARTY'S NORTH ANTRIM BYE-ELECTION CANDIDATE A PROTESTANT IS AN OUT-AND-OUT UNITED IRELANDER OTHER PARTY ELEMENTS IN CONTRAST ARE TAKING A SOFTER LINE ON IRISH DIMENSION RECOGNIZING NECESSITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND MAJORITY POPULATIONS CONSENT TO AS PARTY PUTS IT "AGREED IRELAND" SDLP OPPOSES NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BEFORE NEXT SPRING

5. PROVOS HAVE RESUMED BOMBING CAMPAIGN AFTER A SEVERAL-WEEKS LAY OFF HALF DOZEN HEAVY EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF PROVINCE YESTERDAY INCLUDING A 300-POUNDER IN CENTER OF BELFAST THAT BLEW OUT ALL THE FRONT WINDOWS OF THE EUROPE HOTEL AND NEARBY BUILDINGS FOR THE FIFTH OR SIXTH TIME THERE HAS BEEN REPORTED A PROVO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT YESTERDAY'S BOMBINGS ARE BEGINNING OF ESCALATED CAMPAIGN TO FORCE BRITISH TO STATE DATE FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL.
PENBERTHY

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